

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-008-2025

Draft No.: 1

Committee: GOFP

Date: February 27, 2025

Action: FAV (A)

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable 3-0, with amendments (Council Members Watson, Dernoga, and Oriadha) (Absent: CM Hawkins) (Excused Absence: CM Harrison)

The Prince George's County Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee convened on February 27, 2025, to consider **CB-008-2025**, an act concerning the Revised Public Safety Officer Real Property Tax Credit. The legislation aims to incentivize officers to reside in Prince George's County.

Council staff provided an overview of the legislation, which would update the list of public safety officers eligible for a \$2,500 property tax credit and add to the list of public safety officers already included. The agencies that would be added with enactment are those employed by a bi-county agency, which includes the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC).

The enactment of CB-008-2025 will have a direct adverse fiscal impact on the County due to the possibility of additional administrative costs and foregone revenue from the grant of the credits. Council staff provided the number of MNCPPC officers used in creating the potential impact of approximately \$125,000. Information necessary to determine the fiscal impact was not available for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC).

The Office of the County Executive took no position. Cindy Bucci, Chief of Treasury from the Office of Finance shared some potential operational challenges within the legislation. Council Member Oriadha inquired further into the Office of Finance's concerns. The Office will have to rely on the various bi-county agencies to provide the pertinent information on the employees residing in Prince George's County. Council Member Dernoga inquired about the impact of state laws on this legislation, considering the bi-county agencies involved are regulated under state law. The Office of Law found CB-008-2025 to be legally sufficient with no impediments to enactment.

The Bill sponsor, Council Member Blegay, spoke about the intention, which has always been that all public safety workers receive the credit. At this phase, it is of the most importance to ensure the law is clarified so everyone is included.

Speaking in support of the legislation was:

Gary Yancy Pres. FOP 112
Jonathon Ness Pres. FOP 30 MNCPPC
Trevan Sherard Fist VP FOP 30
Calvin Charles III Park Police Officer
Chief Haywood Park Police
Calvin Charles II Park Police

The Office of the County Executive offered technical amendments which were accepted.

Amendment 1: Page 2 - line 3 strike *in Prince George's County*

Amendment 2: Page 2 - line 7 add *a public safety officer employed full-time in Prince George's County.*

After further discussion, the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee voted favorably 3-0, with amendments.